

Traffic calming measures and pedestrian/cycle upgrades on Anning Road, Exeter Science Park

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) The scheme shown on plan 361072B-01 included in Appendix I is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £248,250;**
- (b) subject to no objections being received to the advertised road humps, to install traffic calming features on the public highway as described in the report;**
- (c) Delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, in consultation with the relevant Local Member, to approve minor changes to the scheme design.**

1. Background/Introduction

The Tithebarn Link Road is currently under construction and when completed will provide an alternative citybound route for drivers, avoiding the A30 Honiton Road/M5 Junction 29 corridor. It also provides direct access to approximately 1,500 dwellings, which have been consented at Mosshayne/Tithebarn Green (on the eastern edge of Science Park). Following completion of the first phase of the link road between Cumberland Way and Anning Road (northern junction) an agreement was put in place between Exeter Science Park Ltd, Eagle One and Devon County Council (as highway authority) for interim public use of Anning Road until the full link road was completed.

Following discussions between Exeter Science Park Ltd, Devon County Council, Eagle One and East Devon District Council (as planning authority), the Science Park Board took a decision in September 2017 to request DCC to retain Anning Road permanently as public highway.

With both Anning Road and Tithebarn Link Road open to the public, there is potential for some 'through traffic' to use Anning Road as it is approximately 200m shorter in length. In order to retain Exeter Science Park as a campus-style environment and encourage use of the link road, additional and enhanced traffic calming features are proposed on Anning Road, which will be funded through the Highways England Growth and Housing Fund project and developer contributions.

The traffic calming features will also offer benefit to the Science Park by reducing vehicle speeds and providing connectivity for pedestrians crossing Anning Road, to give additional linkages between the future Science Park development plot clusters.

2. Proposal

The proposals are shown on drawing no. 361072B-01, included in Appendix I.

Traffic calming features include the provision of six new raised tables/flat top road humps, with associated lining and signing. The tables will be constructed with plateau lengths to accommodate the wheel base of a bus and include uncontrolled crossing points to make it easy for pedestrians accessing the different Science Park development clusters in the future.

Refuge island build-outs are proposed to locally reduce the width of Anning Road down to accommodate single-way vehicular movements only. Priority control traffic signs and give-way markings will be provided at the new build-outs. This will restrict in-bound vehicle speeds with priority at both build-outs given to vehicles exiting Anning Road. The build-outs will incorporate uncontrolled dropped crossing facilities for use by pedestrians and cycle bypass slips to segregate cyclists from vehicles.

Directional signs on the approaches to Anning Road are proposed to reinforce the 'through traffic' route via Tithebarn Link Road.

In addition to the traffic calming measures, a new section of cycleway/footway is proposed on the southern side of Anning Road between Babbage Way and the southern Tithebarn Link Road junction. This will ensure a continuous cycle/footway along the full length of Anning Road.

The northern end of the Babbage Way (private road) is to be adjusted to be exit-only onto Anning Road to provide flexibility of routes for traffic leaving the phase 1 cluster.

3. Options/Alternatives

The alternative option to these proposals is for no works to be undertaken. This would either allow Anning Road to revert to a private road, subject to a stopping up order being approved, or if no traffic calming measures are introduced, there is the potential for strategic through traffic to use Anning Road as a slightly shorter route. Increased traffic would detract from the campus-style character of the Science Park which is intended to be a low speed, lightly trafficked environment. The additional traffic would hinder the connectivity between the development clusters on the Science Park and the collaborative environment for the overall Science Park community.

The option of stopping up Anning Road was not supported by Exeter Science Park Board, and it was agreed that with the road remaining open to the public, traffic calming measures would be required. This was also supported by East Devon planning officers.

The proposed scheme takes into account and is complementary to the following adjacent schemes:

- Tithebarn Link Road.
- Car park/park and change site on land adjacent to Exeter Science Park. This scheme will include cycle storage and electric bike stand facilities.
- Improvements to the cycle route from Cumberland Way to the Honiton Road Junction at the end of Blackhorse Lane as part of a larger route E4 cycle scheme throughout Exeter. This includes proposals for a new parallel 'tiger' crossing (pedestrian zebra crossing combined with a crossing for cyclists) to be installed at an existing raised table located at the junction of Blackhorse Lane with Anning Road.

4. Consultations/Representations

The scheme has been developed in consultation with Exeter Science Park Limited, Eagle One and East Devon District Council. The road humps are being advertised for a period of 3 weeks where there is an opportunity for people to respond on these specific elements of the proposals. If we receive no objections, the plans will be implemented as per the recommendations.

5. Financial Considerations

The scheme is being funded as part of the package of highway works agreed as part of the Tithebarn Link Road Highways England Growth and Housing Fund (GHF) project. The total project budget is £8,617,617 and comprises £4,037,178 Highways England Growth and Housing Fund grant and £4,580,439 s106/developer contributions. This funding is included in the capital programme.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

In combination with neighbouring schemes (i.e. Park and Change, cycle upgrades to Blackhorse Lane and the E4 cycle route), it will have a positive impact by encouraging more people to cycle and walk thereby reducing CO₂ and other airborne pollutants.

It will improve pedestrian/cycle facilities for visitors and people working at the Science Park and should encourage reduced reliance on the car as Exeter Science Park develops further.

7. Equality Considerations

The proposals take into account age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers and marriage/civil partnership status. The proposals improve accessibility for all between the clusters across Exeter Science Park, and in particular provide safe and convenient crossings for people with disabilities or reduced mobility. Streetlighting along Anning Road has also been extended to increase security for pedestrians walking through the site.

8. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations associated with this scheme. The traffic calming works will need to be advertised as per The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999.

A Traffic Regulation Order for a Clearway (no stopping at any time) was made for the length of Anning Road in November 2015. As such no additional parking restrictions are proposed as part of these works.

9. Risk Management Considerations

The key risk to deliverability within the funding timescales is gaining approval for the raised table humps. Normal risk management for the construction of schemes will apply.

10. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased cycling and walking, which is associated with physical and mental health benefits. Improving activity through walking and cycling was one of the achievements identified in Devon County Council's 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 to 2019'.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

It is considered that the traffic calming proposals for Anning Road will support aspirations for a low speed, lightly trafficked campus-style environment. It will discourage 'through traffic' from using Anning Road, with non-Science Park related traffic instead being encouraged to use Tithebarn Link Road.

The proposed scheme will improve walking and cycling facilities within the park, including the completion of a continuous section of cycleway/footway for the length of Anning Road.

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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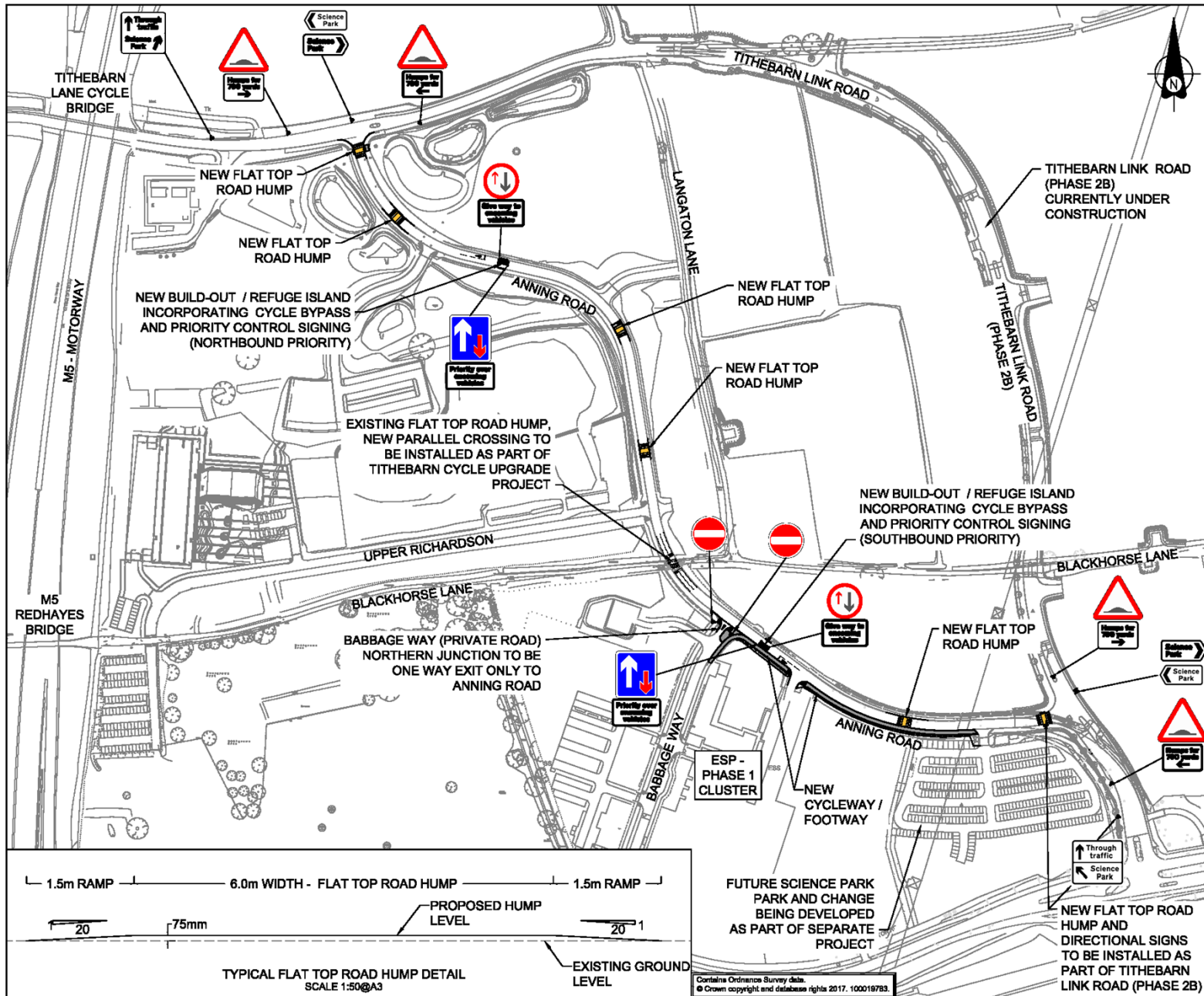
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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
NIL		

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Appendix I
To PTE/17/64



Do not scale from this drawing in either hard or electronic format. No responsibility is accepted where this drawing is used in circumstances other than that for which it was originally prepared and issued.

NOTES

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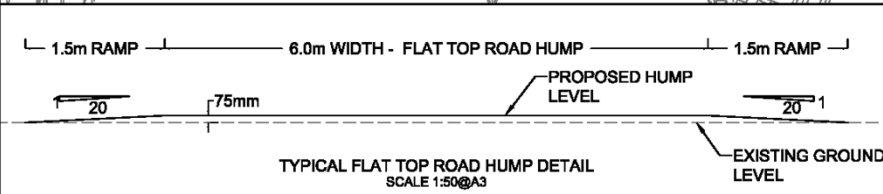
Rev	Date	Drawn	Revisions	Chk
-	05.11.17	TJ	First Issue	MA
A	01.11.17	TJ	Babbage Way Details	MA
B	10.11.17	TJ	Hump Detail Added	MA
C	10.11.17	TJ	Notes Amended	MA



JOB
Tithebarn - Anning Road Improvements

DRAWING TITLE
Anning Road Proposed Improvement Works

Dwg. No. 361072B-01	Revision C
Scale(s) 1:2500 (Plan)	Sheet A3



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